GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:640
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
DISEASES FROM ANIMALS
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many persons are dying in Metro Cities due to diseases being spread by various animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Animals are closely associated with human beings and are responsible for transmitting various diseases through direct contact or through their products. Some of the important diseases are Leptospirosis, Rabies, Brucellosis, Hydatidosis, Toxoplasmosis, etc. These diseases also occur in metropolitan cities. The exact frequency of their occurrence is not known; however, outbreak of leptospirosis occurred in Mumbai and Thane in the last week of May, 2000. Rabies which is transmitted through bites of infected animals does not show any particular pattern of occurrence and is experienced as a problem throughout the country.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments to control the spread of animal borne diseases in Metropolitan cities:

- Teams from ICMR and NICD were rushed to the affected areas to coordinate with the local health officials for carrying out sero surveillance and to establish the cause of infection.
- Training was imparted to medical and paramedical staff for early diagnosis of leptospirosis.
- Anti-rodent activities were stepped up before the monsoon.
- Guidelines for prevention and treatment of leptospirosis disseminated through the State Governments.
- IEC campaign launched to sensitize the people for taking steps to avoid infection.
- In addition vaccinations are provided in all tertiary hospitals to treat cases of dog bites and bites of other animals in order to prevent rabies.